GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:155
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2001
PRIMARY HEALTH POLICY
NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the primary health system in villages and rural areas is on the verge of collapse and the State Governments have failed to revive the same;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to bring out an ambitious new health policy to revive the primary health system in the country; and

(c) if so, the salient features of the proposed health policy?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a)to(c): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 155 FOR 28.11.2001.

(a) The primary health system in villages and rural areas is not on the verge of collapse. It is, however, true that the management of the primary health system which rests with state governments, needs to be more efficient.

Government is aware of certain gaps in the coverage and outreach of primary health care, as well as of trained manpower and these are constantly being addressed in consultation with state governments. A facility survey has also been conducted by Central Government in selected districts of the country, to assess the availability of infrastructure facilities and their utilization at all primary health centres, community health centres, first referral units and district hospitals.

Government of India have adopted a holistic national population policy which has suggested many interventions that have begun to visibly improve the functioning of primary health care. A listing of the interventions is annexed.

(b) After wide ranging deliberations involving, concerned Central Government Departments, State Governments, Voluntary Organisations, eminent health professionals and the Central Council of Health & FW, a draft National Health Policy has been prepared. Comments received on the draft policy are under examination.

(c) Measures suggested in the draft national health policy, for strengthening the primary health system in the country are:

- Increase health sector expenditure from 5.2% of GDP to 6% of GDP by 2010 with increased Government contribution from 0.9% to 2.0% GDP during the same period.
- Increase allocation for the primary health sector to 55% of the total public health investment
- Supply of essential drugs to primary health centres in rural areas under Central Government funding through decentrailised system.

ANNEXURE

Under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, funds are being released to States and UTs for strengthening the existing primary health care facilities, for procuring drugs and essential consumables and towards contingencies for travel cost of the ANMs, repair of equipment and furniture.

Area Development Projects are being implemented with external and for additional strengthening of the public health infrastructure. The main activities of Area Projects include construction of buildings for health sub-centres, primary health centres, community health centres, staff quarters, training institutes and supply of furniture and equipments etc.

Schemes for major and minor Civil Works component of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, makes funds available to state governments for the construction/repair/maintenance of operation theatres, labour rooms and for provisioning/upgradation of water and electricity supply in the public health facilities.

Efforts are also made to increase the outreach in rural areas through Swasthya Melas and Reproductive and Child Health camps etc.

In service training to ANM`s & other staff in skill improvement is being provided under Reproductive & Child Health Programme.

Government is providing funds to state governments for contractual hiring of essential staff like Lady Doctors/Additional ANMs/Anaesthetists/Gynaecologists etc wherever deemed necessary.

Medicine & equipments are also being provided under RCH Programme.